

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4370

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name

(indicate preferred name)

historic 708-708 1/2 North Howard Street

and/or common A.T. Jones Costume Rental

2. Location

street & number 708 - 708 1/2 N. Howard Street ___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name A.T. Jones & Sons, Inc

street & number 708 N. Howard Street

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds Baltimore City Courthouse lib 3093

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 496

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4370

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1910 commercial building faces east on N. Howard Street and is flanked by partywall structures. The enframed window wall building is three stories tall with the center section of glazing contrasted against the dark brick masonry laid in simple geometric patterns. The street frontage is 22'10" and the depth is 150'.

This shed-roof building has a partywall structure to the north (710 North Howard Street) that has similar brick work indicating that the two buildings were constructed at virtually the same date; the seam between the two indicates, however, that they were conceived of and constructed as separate structures.

The first story was substantially remodelled during the post-World War Two period. The facade consists of a central large plate glass display window with the recessed shop front entrance (#708) located to the south and a separate recessed entrance (#708 1/2) to the upper floors to the north. The brick work around the doors has been altered. A large stucco panel for a sign board stretches above the doors and windows.

The second and third stories are intact. Each story has a large tripartite window centered on the facade. The windows on the second floor are taller than those of the third. All the windows are sash, the only variation being that the second story windows have a 3/1, 5/3, 3/1 pattern of lights and the third story windows have a 3/1, 5/1, 3/1 pattern. This central window area is divided by brick spandrels between the second and third stories. The bricks are laid in a geometric pattern that form rectangular outlines; the corner blocks of the rectangles are further accented by the use of square granite blocks.

A tall parapet wall rises above the third story, creating a false fourth story. The wall is ornamented by bricks laid in a way to create rectilinear outlines echoing (but simpler than) the rectangular spandrels below. A boldly projecting cast iron cornice bisects the parapet wall. A pair of large brackets support the cornice which is further embellished by a row of smaller brackets running below. The parapet is capped by a smaller cornice of corbelled metal back bands.

The back (west) wall is three stories with industrial windows at each story. A fire escape runs down the back.

The interior is partially accessible. The first floor of #708 is used as a display and storage area for costumes. The plan is open with a step up in the floor level towards the back of the building. The brick walls are not plastered and a wood coat rail is nailed to the south wall. The entire first floor ceiling is covered with pressed tin. The floors are laid in large tiles.

B-4370

708-708 1/2 North Howard Street

Baltimore, MD

Section 7 Description

7.1

The recess of the two entrances has the effect of creating a projecting display window. A shelf is built into the base of the window to create a display counter. Remnants of a curtain rod holder on the jambs suggests there was once a cafe curtain behind the display goods.

The entrance of #708 1/2 opens on to a steep flight of stairs that rises towards the back (west) of the second floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4370

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect	unknown
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or		
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The architectural design of this three-story, one-bay, commercial building is an example of an enframed window wall with Art Deco detailing. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that the enframed window wall design was "most commonly used for retail stores" and that the design "reflects an effort to give greater order to the facade composition of small and moderate-sized commercial buildings."¹ The tripartite windows in the second and third stories indicate the commercial usage of the upper story, as well as the first story. The separate first-story entrance accessing the upper stories suggests that the building was constructed to hold more than one tenant, and that separate entrances were desirable. This separation of zones and access further suggest that the building was not used as a combination retail-manufacturing space for one business.

The early Art Deco details of geometric brick work and contrasting glazed tile accents is seen on several buildings in the Howard Street district. This particular building is notable for its partywall mate to the north which picks up on the identical details but expresses them slightly differently. Thus the two buildings can be read as pair of Art Deco experiments.

The three-story height is indicative of the middling land values in this section of Howard Street. Further south, four- and five-story buildings predominate, but in this edge section of Howard Street, three stories are the rule for both nineteenth- and twentieth-century buildings.

The post-World War Two alterations to the first story created a "modern" commercial design aesthetic. The use of traditional materials such as plate glass was expanded upon to modernize the appearance of the street-level shop into a floor-to-ceiling display window. The configuration of the recessed entrances, however, appear to be original.

¹ Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 69, 68.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4370

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037date December 18, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Streettelephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimorestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, 1930-present

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

OTS 1/2-12/13, 15/19-25/28, 30/31, 32, 40/41 PER DEEDS & PLS. C.S. 85-231-233

AVE.

501

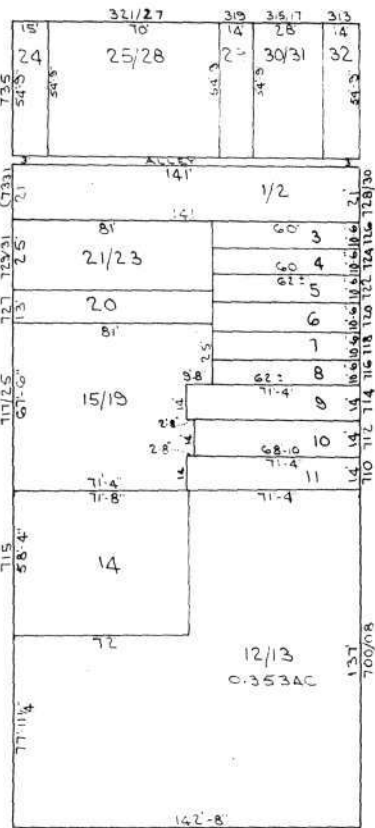
502

W. MADISON

ST.

ST.

N. EUTAW

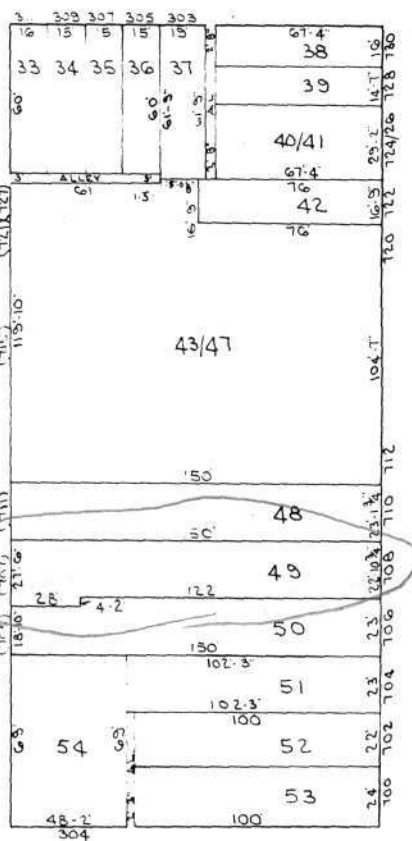


AVE.

LINDEN

W. MONUMENT

ST.



ST.

R.B. R.R. R/W
(TUNNEL)

N. HOWARD

522

NOTE: FOR OLD CONDITIONS SEE SHEET-2

~~SHEETS IN SET-2~~
~~SHEET-1~~

530

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 11 SECTION 10

BLOCK 521

SCALE 1"=50'

DATE DEC. 1984

BY D.G.

ED BY D.G.

D BY



B-4370

708-708½ N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade east elevation and

flanking parhwall buildings

1/1